

American Life



Niagara

Frederic Edwin Church

Frederic Edwin Church was born in Hartford, Connecticut. In 1844, at the age of 18, Church became Thomas Cole's only pupil. He was soon skilled enough to begin exhibiting. He became an associate member of the National Academy of Design in 1849 and a full member the following year. Church traveled from the arctic to the tropics, making sketches in search of material for his paintings. His works were often extremely large, and enthralled crowds with their realistic, technical touch. Church's studio was in the 10th Street Studio Building in New York City from 1858 to 1887. He was a founding trustee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York where he served with the institution for 17 years. In 1876 he suffered from his first attack of arthritis, which led him to paint with his left hand. By 1880 Church's painting declined, and his interest turned to embellishing his home, Olana, in Hudson, New York, now a museum in his memory.



1857
Oil on Canvas
Frederic Edwin Church 1826-1900